

XXXV. *Extracts from the COUNCIL MINUTE-BOOK of the LINNEAN SOCIETY
of LONDON.*

1832.

June 23. **T**HE President laid before the Council a letter addressed to his Lordship by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Honourable Court of Directors of the East India Company, as follows :

“ My Lord,

“ East India House, June 19th, 1832.

“ The Court of Directors of the East India Company have within the last two years caused to be distributed to various bodies in this country and in Europe, interested in the promotion of science, between seven and eight thousand species of plants, collected by celebrated naturalists in the Company’s service during a series of years in India.

“ The object being attained for which the originals of these specimens have been placed with Dr. Wallich in Frith-street, the Court of Directors feel that this collection may not be an unacceptable addition to the Museum of the Linnean Society of London, which already possesses the Herbarium of the celebrated Linnæus. We have therefore the honour, at the instance of the Court of Directors, and in the name of the East India Company, to proffer through your Lordship for the acceptance of the Linnean Society, the Collection in question ; and should the Council of the Society be pleased to give effect to the intentions of the Court, the necessary directions will be given to Dr. Wallich to transfer the Collection to the party who may be authorized by the Council to receive the same.

“ We have the honour to be,

“ My Lord,

“ Your Lordship’s most obedient humble Servants,

(Signed)

“ JOHN G. RAVENSHAW,

“ C. MAJORIBANKS.”

“ The Lord Stanley, M.P.

“ &c. &c. &c.”

The Council proceeded to take the above letter into consideration, and voted the following Address to be presented to the Court of Directors on Tuesday next, the 26th instant, by a Deputation of the Council, viz.

“The Council of the Linnean Society having had a letter laid before them by the President, addressed to His Lordship by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Court of Directors of the East India Company, in which that Honourable Court have been pleased to offer for the acceptance of the Society the extensive collection of dried plants preserved in the Museum of the India House, take the earliest opportunity of expressing their high sense of the distinguished honour conferred upon the Society by this unexampled act of liberality.

“The Council, in behalf of the Society, accept with feelings of profound gratitude the Collection thus proffered to them, and beg to assure the Court that it shall be held as a trust for the general benefit of science.

“The Council cannot avoid expressing their admiration of the enlightened policy shown by the Honourable Court of Directors with relation to their collections in natural history, in extending the advantage to be derived from them by the most liberal distribution of specimens throughout the scientific world, and by this memorable instance of their munificence in placing the fruits of the labours of König, Roxburgh, Röttler, Russell, Klein, Hamilton, Heyne, Wight, Finlayson, and Wallich with those of the immortal Linnæus.

“The East India Company, by extending its patronage to those distinguished naturalists who have cultivated science in Asia, so much to their own honour, and to the credit of the service to which they belonged, and by the generous use of the rich materials in its possession, has deeply impressed the members of every learned institution throughout Europe and America with feelings of admiration and respect; and the Council of the Linnean Society can only reecho the voice of general acknowledgement for the great services which the Honourable Company has thus rendered to the cause of science.

“An example of disinterestedness has been exhibited by the Company which has already reflected, and will continue to reflect deserved honour upon them and upon the country, and which cannot fail to diffuse a spirit of emulation throughout the world.”

June 26. The Address voted at the last Meeting to the Court of Directors of the Honourable East India Company, which had been engrossed on vellum, was signed by the President and the other members of Council present, and the seal of the Society was then affixed to it.

August 7. The Secretary reported that on June 26th the President, Mr. Brown, Mr. Forster, General Hardwicke, Dr. Nicholl, Mr. Bentham, Mr. Solly and himself waited on the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Court of Directors of the East India Company with the Address voted on the 23rd.

1836.

Nov. 1. The Secretary reported that he had received a letter from Dr. Horsfield, dated September 27th, in which it was stated, that in obedience to an order of the Court of Directors of the East India Company, he had sent to the Society Dr. Wallich's collection of plants and fruits in spirits in 172 bottles, and Mr. Royle's herbarium in 130 bundles; the plants of Mr. Royle to be distributed by the Society in the name of the East India Company as the plants of Dr. Wallich were distributed.